



CHILDSAFE 7 TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

7 better ways to protect
children at risk during your travels

Join the Movement
www.thinkchildsafemovement.org

Why 7 Tips for Travelers?

During your travels, you will probably meet children at risk – perhaps begging at crossroads, selling postcards or fruit at tourist sites, or shining shoes in train stations. You want to help them, but you don't know how. You can really protect these children if you take the right actions. Follow these 7 tips and travel ChildSafe!

1 **THINK! Children are not tourist attractions – let's not treat them like they are.**

Children living or studying in schools, orphanages or slums shouldn't be exposed to tourist visits. These places are not zoos. Imagine a bus full of foreigners visiting schools in your home country. Would you find this acceptable?

Travel ChildSafe. Put child protection first and do not visit these places. Find alternatives that really help children at www.thinkchildsafemovement.org.

2 **THINK! Volunteering with children feels good but could be harmful – look for better ways to help them.**

Working with children in institutions such as orphanages is a job for local experts, not for travelers who are just passing through. Children deserve more than good intentions: they deserve experienced and skilled caretakers and teachers who know the local culture and language.

Travel ChildSafe. Make sure your volunteering is a great experience and has the best impact possible. Do not work directly with children; instead, share your professional skills with local staff. You can also explore other ways to put your talents to use. Find more information and alternatives at www.thinkchildsafemovement.org.

3 **THINK! Children pay a price for your generosity – don't give to begging children.**

When you give money, food or gifts to begging children, you encourage them to continue begging, which prevents them from going to school and locks them into a cycle of poverty.

Travel ChildSafe. There are better ways to support children and youth: use businesses with a social impact, such as training restaurants and shops, or donate to organizations supporting children and their families. Find such organizations and businesses at www.thinkchildsafemovement.org.

4

THINK! Professionals know best – call them if a child needs help.

Helping children directly can cause problems because you don't know the local culture and laws. For instance, never take a child back to your hotel room – it's dangerous for both you and the child.

Travel ChildSafe. When you see a child in need, the best thing to do is to contact local professionals. Call a child protection hotline, contact a local organization or call the police. You won't bother anyone – it is their job to check and help. Just call. You could save their life and give them a first chance to build their future. Find a list of hotlines at www.thinkchidsafe.org.

5

THINK! Sex with children is a crime – report child sex tourism.

Sex tourism involving children is a devastating reality. It happens in hotels, in bars, etc. You may also be offered to have sex with children.

Travel ChildSafe. When you see such a situation, don't put yourself at risk. Call a child protection hotline, contact a local organization or call the police so immediate action can be taken to protect the child and investigate the situation. Find a list of hotlines at www.thinkchidsafe.org.

6

THINK! Children should not be at work instead of school – report child labor.

Some tourism businesses like hotels, restaurants or bars hire children, and it's a problem when it hurts their education and development.

Travel ChildSafe. If you think that a business employs underage children and prevents them from going to school, call a child protection hotline, contact a local organization or call the police. They will check the child's situation – many children are just helping out their parents after school, but some may be exploited. Find a list of hotlines at www.thinkchidsafe.org.

7

THINK! Protect children – be a ChildSafe traveler.

ChildSafe raises awareness about how you can help children during your trip. It also trains and certifies many businesses in the tourism industry (such as hotels, travel agencies, restaurants, and taxi services) to actively protect children.

Travel ChildSafe. Use ChildSafe-certified businesses when planning and throughout your trip to avoid being involved in harmful situations for children. Every action described in these tips can make a big difference.

Join the Movement
and together, let's protect children!



ChildSafe is a global movement protecting children and youth around the world.

Learn more about ChildSafe and the actions you can take at **www.thinkchidsafe.org**.

Powered by Friends-International

